

## IN THE DRAWINGS

A proposed correction to Figure 8 is submitted herewith for the Examiner's approval.

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1 1. (Amended) An automatic hot food vending machine, comprising in  
2 combination:  
3 hopper means<sup>10</sup> for holding an inventory of uniformly sized, individual refrigerated  
4 or frozen portions of said food and for maintaining said inventory in a refrigerated or  
5 frozen condition;  
6 dispenser means<sup>20</sup> for selectively dispensing one of said portions from said  
7 inventory by gravity;  
8 oven means<sup>30</sup> pivotal mounted within said machine for receiving said one portion  
9 from said dispenser means, for heating said portion by irradiation thereof with  
10 microwave energy for a predetermined length of time, and for discharging said heated  
11 one portion from said [apparatus] machine thereafter by gravity, said oven means  
12 having a single door with an open position for both receiving said one portion from said  
13 dispenser means and for discharging said heated one portion and a closed position for  
14 heating said one portion;  
15 oven orientation means for selectively rotating said oven means between a first  
16 position for receiving said one portion from said dispenser means and a second  
17 position for discharging said heated one portion;  
18 changer means<sup>100</sup> for receiving, counting, authenticating, and storing money  
19 inserted into said machine, and for refunding counterfeit money inserted therein or  
20 genuine money upon command; and

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21 control and monitor means for:  
22 receiving a signal from said changer means that a predetermined amount  
23 of said authenticated money has been inserted into said machine;  
24 actuating said dispenser means upon receipt of said signal to dispense  
25 said one portion into said oven means; and  
26 activating said oven means to receive, heat, and discharge said portion  
27 from said machine.

1 2. (Amended) [The machine of claim 1,] An automatic hot food vending  
2 machine, comprising in combination:

3 hopper means for holding an inventory of uniformly sized, individual refrigerated  
4 or frozen portions of said food and for maintaining said inventory in a refrigerated or  
5 frozen condition;

6 dispenser means for selectively dispensing one of said portions from said  
7 inventory by gravity;

8 oven means for receiving said one portion from said dispenser means, for  
9 heating said portion by irradiation thereof with microwave energy for a predetermined  
10 length of time, and for discharging said heated one portion from said machine thereafter  
11 by gravity;

12 changer means for receiving, counting, authenticating, and storing money  
13 inserted into said machine, and for refunding counterfeit money inserted therein or  
14 genuine money upon command; and

15 control and monitor means for:

16 receiving a signal from said changer means that a predetermined amount  
17 of said authenticated money has been inserted into said machine;

18 actuating said dispenser means upon receipt of said signal to dispense  
19 said one portion into said oven means; and

20 activating said oven means to receive, heat, and discharge said portion  
21 from said machine.

22 wherein said dispenser means further comprise:

23 said hopper means including a lower, inverted frusto-pyramidal chamber having  
24 a flat bottom with a generally semicircular opening therethrough guarded by a  
25 quadrant-shaped closure and defining an inwardly flanged lip about said opening, said  
26 opening having a diameter at least twice a largest dimension of one of said portions;

27 an upright conical member having a largest diameter about equal to that of said  
28 semicircular opening, said member being positioned generally centered within said  
29 chamber above and spaced apart from said opening;

30 a cylindrical pan having a diameter coextensive with said opening, an open top  
31 in communicating engagement with said opening, a depth below said opening, and a  
32 generally flat bottom having a quadrant shaped aperture therein in vertical alignment  
33 with said quadrant-shaped closure defining a dispenser opening;

34 a shaft rotatably-mounted coaxially within said semicircular opening and  
35 extending from above said opening, through said pan, to below said bottom of said pan;

36 a quartet of elongated rollers extending radially outward from said shaft in even  
37 distribution within a common plane normal to said shaft and rotatably journaled thereon  
38 for rolling movement of an outer portion of each said rollers upon an upper surface of  
39 said flanged lip above said semicircular opening;

40 a paddle wheel having four paddles, each said paddle extending radially  
41 outward from said shaft in alignment with one of said rollers and having a width and  
42 radial extent sufficient to sweep substantially all of a quartic volume defined within said  
43 pan between adjacent said paddles into alignment with said dispenser opening upon  
44 successive 90° incremental rotations of said shaft; and

45 means for selectively rotating said shaft through said successive 90° incremental  
46 rotations when actuated.

At claim 7, line 11, please delete "apparatus" and substitute in place thereof --machine--.

1 ~~9. (Amended) The machine of claim 8, wherein said means for discharging~~  
2 ~~said heated one portion from said enclosure and out of said [apparatus] machine further~~  
3 ~~comprise:~~  
4 ~~[said enclosure being mounted for tilting movement about a horizontal axis to a~~  
5 ~~position wherein said enclosure opening faces generally downward to discharge said~~  
6 ~~one portion from said enclosure by gravity;~~  
7 ~~means for selectively tilting said enclosure about said horizontal axis to said~~  
8 ~~position; and]~~  
9 ~~means for catching and conveying said heated one portion from said enclosure~~  
10 ~~to an exterior opening in said machine.~~

1 ~~16. (Amended) The machine of claim 1, wherein said changer means further~~  
2 ~~comprises means for:~~  
3 ~~receiving a dollar bill into said machine;~~  
4 ~~comparing said bill electro-optically to an exemplar of predetermined authenticity~~  
5 ~~and amount;~~  
6 ~~rejecting said bill from said [apparatus] machine if said bill is not authentic or~~  
7 ~~correct in amount;~~  
8 ~~stacking said bill within said [apparatus] machine and [generated] generating~~  
9 ~~said signal to said control and monitor means if said bill is authentic and correct in~~  
10 ~~amount;~~  
11 ~~holding a stock of ordered coin within said [apparatus] machine; and~~

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~~ejecting a predetermined amount of said coin selectively from said [apparatus]~~

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~~machine upon command from said control and monitor means.~~

Please delete claim 18.

Please add new claims 19-21.

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--19. The machine of claim 1 wherein said oven means is rotatably

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journaled about a horizontal axis.

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20. The machine of claim 1 wherein said oven orientation means further

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selectively rotates said oven means to a third position, intermediate said first and

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second positions, for heating said one portion.

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21. An automatic hot food vending machine, comprising in combination:

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means for holding an inventory of portions of said food;

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means for selectively dispensing one of said portions from said inventory by

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gravity;

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oven means pivotally mounted within said machine for receiving said one portion

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from said dispenser means, for heating said portion by irradiation thereof with

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microwave energy for a predetermined length of time, and for discharging said heated

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one portion from said machine thereafter by gravity, said oven means having a single

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door with an open position for both receiving said one portion from said dispenser

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means and for discharging said heated one portion and a closed position for heating

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said one portion;

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12 ~~oven orientation means for selectively rotating said oven means between a first~~  
13 position for receiving said one portion from said dispenser means and a second  
14 position for discharging said heated one portion;  
15 means for receiving, and authenticating <sup>units</sup> money inserted into said machine; and  
16 control and monitor means for:  
17 receiving a signal from said means for receiving and authenticating money  
18 that a predetermined amount of authenticated money has been inserted into said  
19 machine;  
20 actuating said dispenser means upon receipt of said signal to dispense  
21 said one portion into said oven means; and  
22 activating said oven means to receive, heat, and discharge said portion  
23 from said machine.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-18 have been examined. Applicant hereby amends claims 1, 2, 7, 9 and 16. Claim 18 has been deleted and new claims 19-21 have been added.

The Examiner has stated that claims 2-6 and 12-15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has hereby made appropriate amendments in accordance with the Examiner's remarks to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Furthermore, Applicant has amended claim 2 to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 1 as originally presented. Claims 3-6 and 12-15 are all dependent from claim 2. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claims 2-6 and 12-15 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rubino. Rubino discloses a vending machine with a microwave oven. In Rubino's